

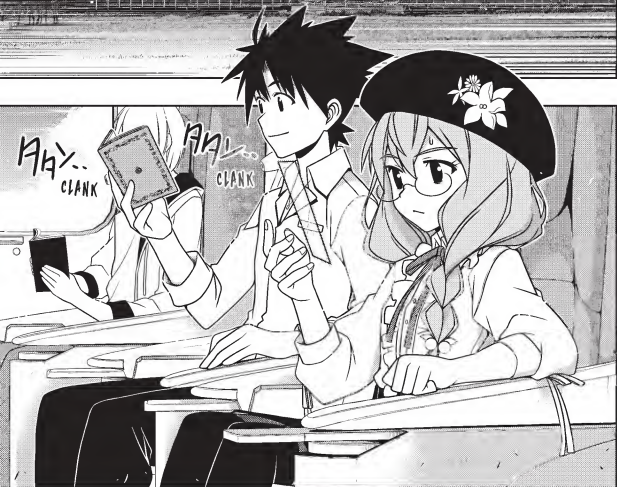


ユーキューホルダー!
HOLDER!



KC
KODANSHA
COMICS

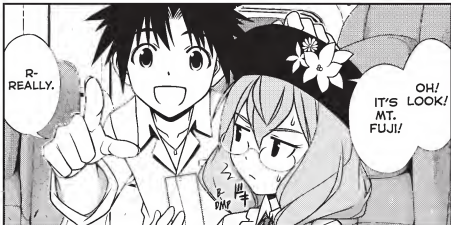
CHAPTER 136
KEN AKAMATSU





Ue HOLDER!

STAGE 136: CLIMB THE STAIRWAY TO ADULTHOOD!

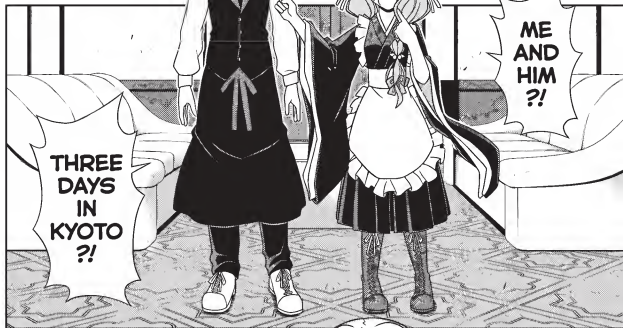




WHAAA-
AAAAT
?!



A FEW HOURS
EARLIER.



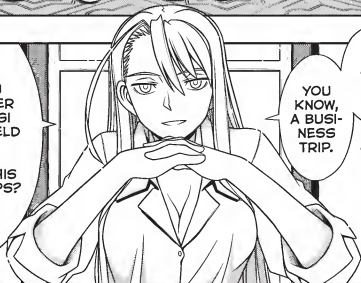
THREE
DAYS
IN
KYOTO
?!

ME
AND
HIM
?!



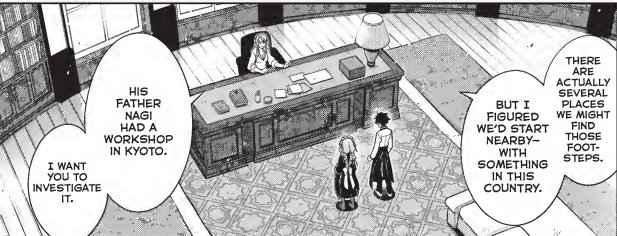
!

DO YOU
REMEMBER
THAT NEGI
SPRINGFIELD
ASKED
YOU TO
FOLLOW HIS
FOOTSTEPS?



MM-
HM.

YOU
KNOW,
A BUSI-
NESS
TRIP.



HIS
FATHER
NAGI
HAD A
WORKSHOP
IN KYOTO.

I WANT
YOU TO
INVESTIGATE
IT.

BUT I
FIGURED
WE'D START
NEARBY—
WITH
SOMETHING
IN THIS
COUNTRY.

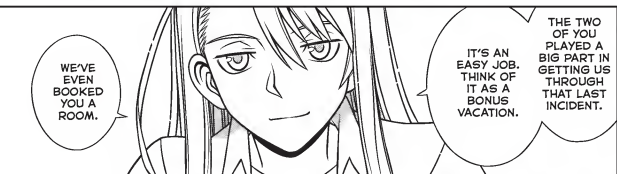
THERE
ARE
ACTUALLY
SEVERAL
PLACES
WE MIGHT
FIND
THOSE
FOOT-
STEPS.



I GET WHY
WE'RE
GOING, BUT
WHY DO I
HAVE TO GO
WITH HIM?!

JUST
A—
NO!

I SEE.
...OKAY,
I'LL
DO IT!



WE'VE
EVEN
BOOKED
YOU A
ROOM.

THE TWO
OF YOU
PLAYED A
BIG PART IN
GETTING US
THROUGH
THAT LAST
INCIDENT.
IT'S AN
EASY JOB.
THINK OF
IT AS A
BONUS
VACATION.



HUH?
OH?



I
A—
A—
A—
A—

SHIRK
ニハ
ニハ
SHIRK

WHAT'S
THIS?
ARE YOU
BLUSH-
ING?



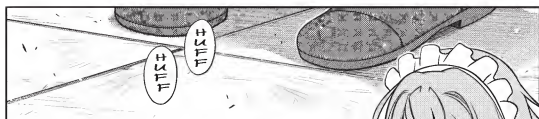
HM?
...!



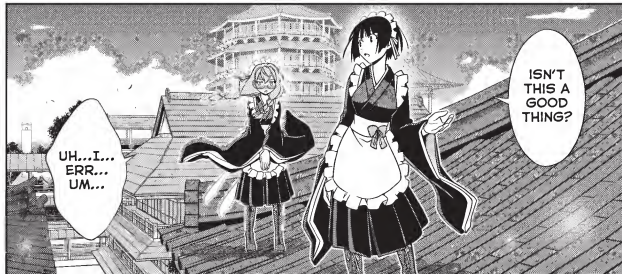
A
RO-
R-R-R-
ROOM
...?

GO
HAVE
FUN.

FLAIL
FLAIL
FLAIL
FLAIL







UH...I...
ERR...
UM...

ISN'T
THIS A
GOOD
THING?



THAT'S
JUST THE
KIND OF
BONE-
HEAD
HE IS.

IT-I-I-I-
IT'S NOT
LIKE THAT!
HE SAYS
"I LOVE
YOU" AND
"YOU'RE
AWESOME"
TO EVERYONE...



SAYS HE
LIKES
YOU,
RIGHT?

THE
IDIOT



HUH
?
EXCUSE
ME.



IT...
IT'S NOT
WHAT YOU
THINK I
MEAN
...I...
UUUGH
...

NO,
I'M
TELLING
YOU.

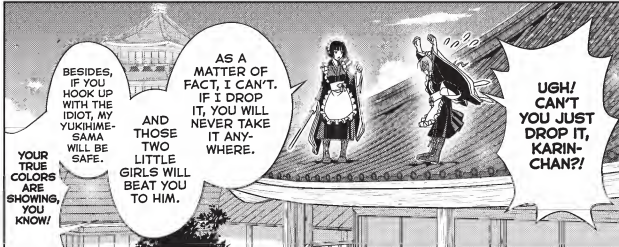
BUT YOU
HAVE MY
BLESSING...
AS A
FELLOW
IMMORTAL.

WELL, IT IS
SOMEWHAT
DISAP-
POINTING
THAT YOUR
TRUE LOVE
IS THAT
MORON...



YOU
THINK
SO?





BESIDES,
IF YOU
HOOK UP
WITH THE
IDIOT, MY
YUKIHIME-
SAMA
WILL BE
SAFE.

YOUR
TRUE
COLORS
ARE
SHOWING,
YOU
KNOW!

AND
THOSE
TWO
LITTLE
GIRLS WILL
BEAT YOU
TO HIM.

AS A
MATTER OF
FACT, I CAN'T.
IF I DROP
IT, YOU WILL
NEVER TAKE
IT ANY-
WHERE.

UGH!
CAN'T
YOU JUST
DROP IT,
KARIN-
CHAN?!



SOMEHOW I
FEEL LIKE THERE
IS NOTHING TO
RELAX ABOUT,
OR IS THAT
JUST ME?

BUT JUST
RELAX,
KIRIÉ.



WAIT...
IF YOU
COUNT ALL
YOUR RESETS,
IT WOULD BE
MORE THAN
THAT... WHICH
MEANS THAT
MENTALLY, YOU
ARE FULLY
MATURED.

SO WHAT
WAS YOUR
ACTUAL,
LEGAL
AGE? I
THINK
IT WAS
19...20?

YUKIHIME-
SAMA TOLD
ME YOU
USED YOUR
POWERS TO
FIND A WAY
TO STOP
AGING WHEN
YOU WERE
ABOUT
13...



THERE IS ONE
WAY TO GAIN
COMPLETE
AND UTTER
VICTORY
OVER THOSE
PESKY
MORTAL
GIRLS IN THIS
FIGHT FOR
HIS LOVE.
AND IT IS...

HEAR
ME
OUT.

STOP.
I HAVE
A BAD
FEELING
ABOUT
THIS.

WHAT I'M
SAYING IS...AS
AN ADULT, YOU
HAVE A
DISTINCT
ADVANTAGE.

ASSERTIVE
THOUGH
THEY MAY
BE, THOSE
LITTLE
GIRLS
ARE JUST
CHILDREN.





OOHH.

SO THIS
IS KYOTO
STATION.

CLAMOR



LOOK
AT THIS
HISTORIC
ARCHI-
TECTURE.

IT'S
AWESOME.



WELL, AFTER THE
CAPITAL, THIS IS
MY FIRST TIME
AT A FAMOUS
TOURIST SPOT.

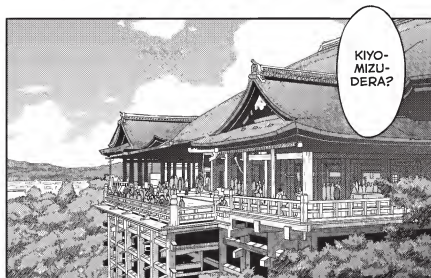
WHAT
ARE YOU,
THREE?

UGH, DO
YOU HAVE
TO BE SO
EXCITED?



LET'S SEE.
I GUESS
WE'LL START
AT KIYOMIZU-
DERA.

U-UGH.
WELL?
WHAT DO
WE DO
NOW?



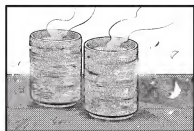
KIYO-
MIZU-
DERA?

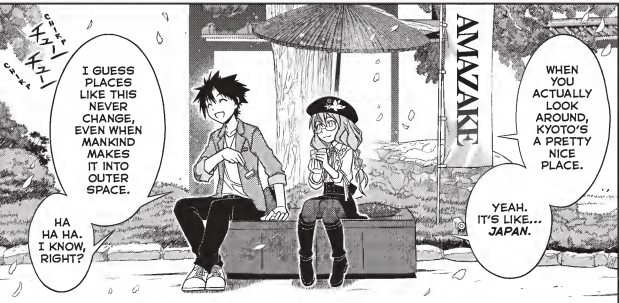


REALLY?
AWESOME.
YOU'RE
SO COOL.
TELL ME
ABOUT IT
SOMETIME.

I'VE
TRAVELED
THE
WHOLE
WORLD,
SO
THIS IS
NOTHING
SPECIAL.







I GUESS PLACES LIKE THIS NEVER CHANGE, EVEN WHEN MANKIND MAKES IT INTO OUTER SPACE.

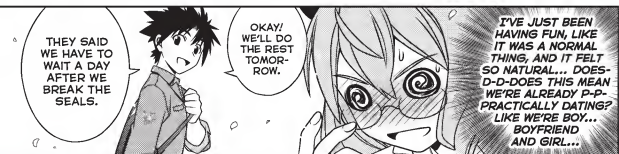
HA HA HA. I KNOW, RIGHT?

WHEN YOU ACTUALLY LOOK AROUND, KYOTO'S A PRETTY NICE PLACE.

YEAH. IT'S LIKE... JAPAN.



WAIT—THIS IS TOTALLY JUST A NORMAL DATE, ISN'T IT?!



THEY SAID WE HAVE TO WAIT A DAY AFTER WE BREAK THE SEALS.

OKAY! WE'LL DO THE REST TOMORROW.

I'VE JUST BEEN HAVING FUN, LIKE IT WAS A NORMAL THING, AND IT FELT SO NATURAL... DOES-D-D-DOES THIS MEAN WE'RE ALREADY P-P-PRACTICALLY DATING? LIKE WE'RE BOY... BOYFRIEND AND GIRL...



OH, MY, MY. WHAT A YOUNG COUPLE.



THE INN... THE...



SO THE ONLY THING LEFT FOR TODAY IS TO GO TO THE INN.

WHAT.



THIS IS
A NICE
ROOM.

WHOA.
IT'S
HUGE!



YOU KNOW,
FROM SPACE,
AND ALL,
WE WON'T
MAKE ANY
ASSUMPTIONS
JUST BECAUSE
OF HOW YOUNG
YOU LOOK.

WE GET
GUESTS
OF ALL
KINDS
THESE
DAYS.

WHAT
?

YOU HAVE
NOTHING
TO WORRY
ABOUT.
WE DON'T
JUDGE
HERE.



DON'T
TELL
ME
...!



DU-DUN L♡

SKIDD
スキッド

NEWLY...
WEDS
...?!

ER, UM,
I THINK
YOU
HAVE THE
WRONG
IDEA...
CERTAINLY
NOT!
I WAS
TOLD
YOU
WERE
NEWLY-
WEDS.



GASP
GASP



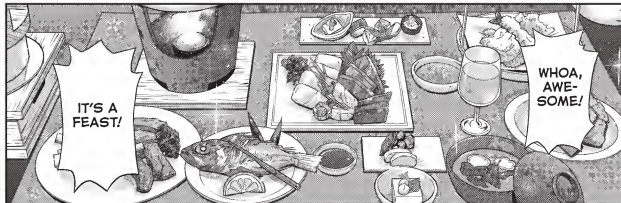
HEY,
KIRIÉ!

RATTLE
ラッ..

THIS
PLACE
REALLY
IS HUGE.

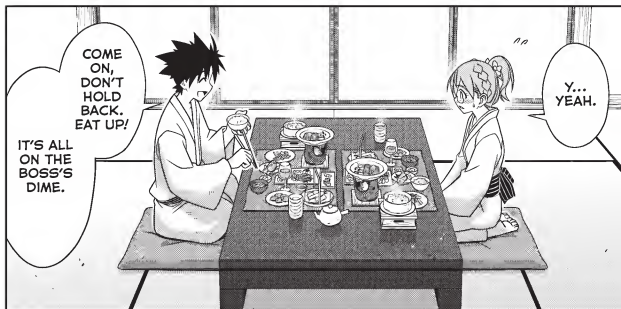


GASP
GASP



IT'S A
FEAST!

WHOA,
AWESOME!



COME
ON,
DON'T
HOLD
BACK.
EAT UP!

IT'S ALL
ON THE
BOSS'S
DIME.

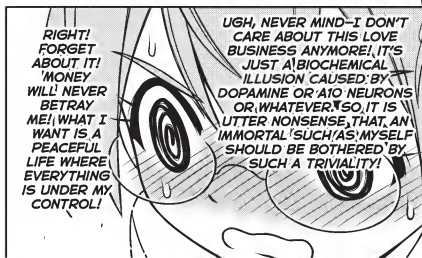
Y...
YEAH.



SO WHY
DO I HAVE
THIS IDIOT
RUNNING
MY LIFE?!

FIRST, OF ALL, LOOK AT ME.
I NEVER WANTED TO GROW
UP OR HAVE ANYTHING TO
DO WITH ANYONE-THAT'S
WHY I SAVED UP MY
MONEY, AND I WAS FINALLY
LIVING MY DREAM AT
SENKYÖKAN.

HNNGH...
K-K-K-KARIN-CHAN
HAD TO GO AND
SAY ALL THAT
STUFF, AND NOW
I'M OVERTHINKING
EVERYTHING!
I...I DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO DO...!



RIGHT!
FORGET
ABOUT IT!
'MONEY
WILL NEVER
BETRAY
ME! WHAT I
WANT IS A
PEACEFUL
LIFE WHERE
EVERYTHING
IS UNDER MY
CONTROL!

UGH, NEVER MIND-I DON'T
CARE ABOUT THIS LOVE
BUSINESS ANYMORE! IT'S
JUST A BIOCHEMICAL
ILLUSION CAUSED BY
DOPAMINE OR A10 NEURONS
OR, WHATEVER. SO IT IS
UTTER NONSENSE, THAT, AN
IMMORTAL SUCH AS MYSELF
SHOULD BE BOTHERED BY
SUCH A TRIVIALITY!





WHAT IS WRONG WITH THIS BLOCKHEAD? AS USUAL, HE'S GOT THAT STUPID LOOK ON HIS FACE, LIKE THERE'S NEVER BEEN A THOUGHT IN HIS HEAD...



EEK!

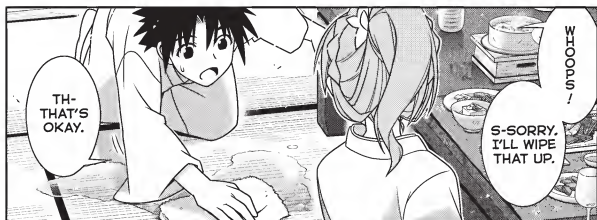
UH.



I GUESS YOU REALLY ARE TIRED...



KIRIÉ, ARE YOU OKAY? THERE ARE DARK CIRCLES UNDER YOUR EYES.



TH-THAT'S OKAY.

S-SORRY. I'LL WIPE THAT UP.

WHOOPS!



IS HE... NERVOUS, TOO? BECAUSE HE'S ALONE WITH A MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITE SEX? IS HE ACTUALLY AWARE OF ME IN THAT CONTEXT?



WAIT... IS IT... POSSIBLE?



MRK... THAT'S STRANGE. HE CAN WAIT TABLES FLAWLESSLY. WHY WOULD HE MAKE SUCH A ROOKIE MISTAKE...?



E-EVEN
WITH THIS
UNDER-
DEVELOPED
BODY?

WH-WH-WHAT
DO I DO?, DOES
THIS MEAN HE
ACTUALLY SEES
ME AS A GIRL...
OR...A-AS A
WOMAN?



HE PREFERS
WOMEN WHO
ARE, YOU
KNOW, BOING-
BOING!

B-BUT
KARIN-CHAN,
EVERYBODY
HAS THEIR
TYPE!



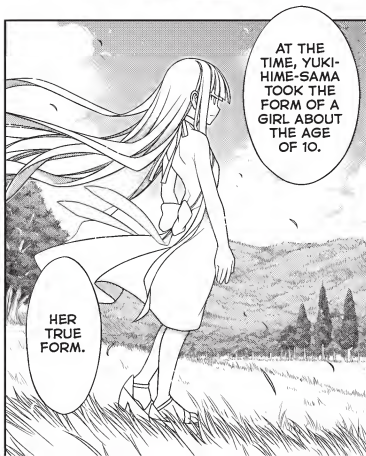
AS I SEE IT, THAT
ENCOUNTER,
RATHER THAN
DIMINISHING THE
IDIOT'S AFFECTION
FOR YUKIHIME-
SAMA, HAS ONLY
MADE IT
STRONGER.

R...
RIGHT.

LISTEN.
WHEN TÔTA
WAS TRAINING
UNDER THAT
WITCH DANA,
HE MET A
16-YEAR-OLD
YUKIHIME-
SAMA...



MORE
VA-VA-VA-
VOOM, LIKE
YUKIHIME!



AT THE
TIME, YUKI-
HIME-SAMA
TOOK THE
FORM OF A
GIRL ABOUT
THE AGE
OF 10.

HER
TRUE
FORM.



HOW
WILL I
BE ALL
RIGHT
?!

YOU'LL
BE ALL
RIGHT.



AT
LEAST
CALL IT
GIRLISH!

EVEN
YOUR
JUVENILE
FIGURE
WILL NOT
POSE A
PROBLEM.

SO...SO
YOU'RE
SAYING
...?

YES.

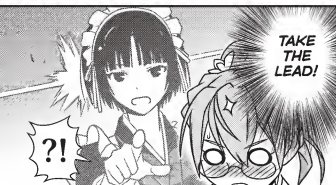
R-R-R-
REALLY?
YOU
THINK
SO?
REALLY?

WHIRL WHIRL WHIRL

DON'T
WORRY,
KIRIÉ.
YOU CAN
DO THIS.

R...
REALLY
?

YOU SHOULD
ASSUME THAT
THE MAN'S
STRIKE ZONE
IS WIDER THAN
YOU'VE EVER
IMAGINED.



TAKE
THE
LEAD!



B-BUT STILL,
WHAT AM I
SUPPOSED
TO...

THERE,
ALL
DONE.



HM?

S-SO,
TÔTA.

O...
OKAY,
KARIN-
CHAN!
GOT IT!

WHIRL WHIRL WHIRL

YOU HAVE
THE MORE
MATURE
MIND,
SO IT MAY
BE BETTER
FOR YOU TO
TAKE THE
INITIATIVE.

THINK
ABOUT IT.
THE IDIOT IS
STILL A CHILD.
NOT ONLY THAT,
BUT THEY SAY
HE ONLY HAS
TWO OR THREE
YEARS OF
MEMORY.





...IS
THE NAPE
OF HER
NECK!!

THE
CASUALLY
UNPROTECTED
NECK, WITH
ITS SUBTLE
CHARM. NO
MAN CAN
RESIST!

ははは BA-DUM ン

WELL, IT'S
ABOUT
WHERE
THE
SEALS
ARE.

WHAT
?

YES! A
WOMAN'S
GREATEST
ASSET WHEN
WEARING A
YUKATA AT
AN INN...



YOU
KNOW,
OVER MY
SHOULDER.

LOOK
FROM
OVER
THERE.

UH, I
CAN'T
SEE IT.



IS THIS
GOING TO
WORK?!
IS IT OKAY?!
WITH MY
PHYSIQUE?!
OR IS
THIS JUST
TURNING
SAD?!

DON'T
WORRY!
BELIEVE IN
YOURSELF,
KIRIE!
LOOK!

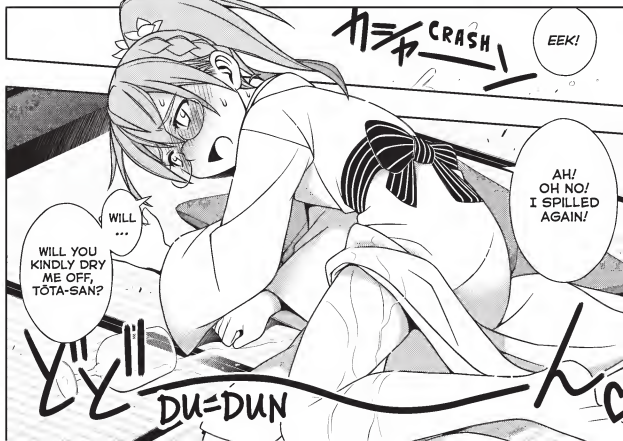
ははは BA-BA-BAM ン

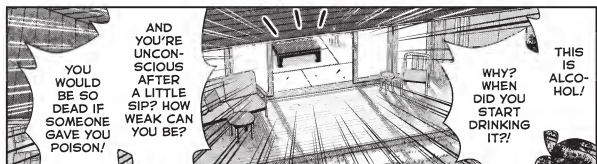


IT'S
WORKING!
NOW KEEP
GOING!
USE YOUR
SECRET
WEAPON!

HE...HE'S
BLUSHING!
THE
CLUELESS
IDIOT IS
BLUSHING!









IT'S MY OWN
FAULT FOR
STOPPING MY
AGING WHEN
I WAS STILL
A KID, ALL
BECAUSE I
DIDN'T WANT
TO GROW UP...
SIGH...

MAYBE I'M
REALLY
JUST NOT
ATTRACTIVE
...

I MEAN,
OF
COURSE
I'M
NOT...

HRRRM.



...AND
A LITTLE
DISAP-
POINTED.

BURBLE
BURBLE

BUT...I GUESS
I'M A LITTLE
RELIEVED.



MMM
...?

MRK...



YEEK!

SPLASH

RATTLE

HEY,
KIRIE?



HUH
?

YOUR
FACE...
TURNED
RED...



STAAARE

WH-
WHAT
?

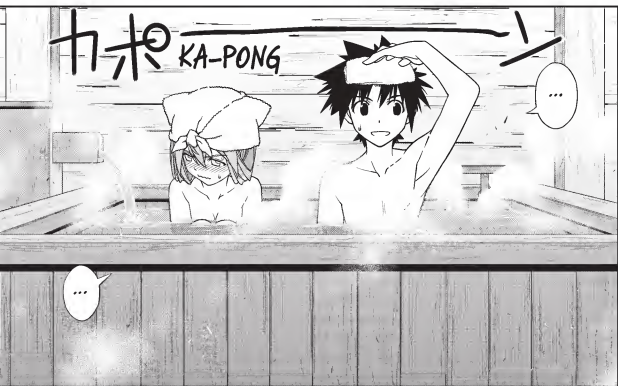
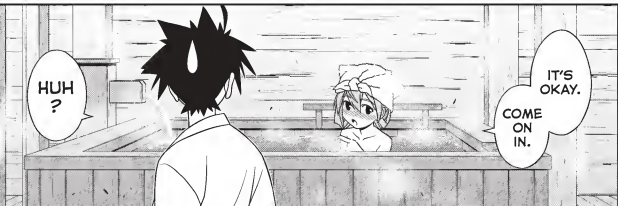


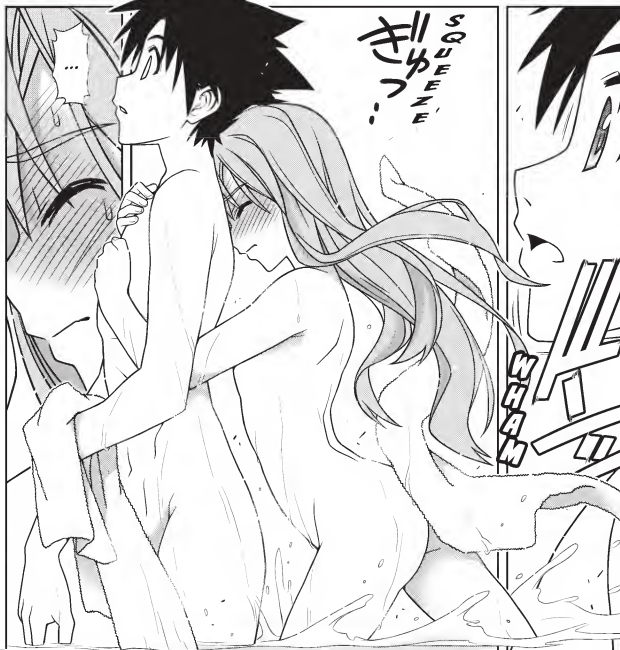
HUH
?



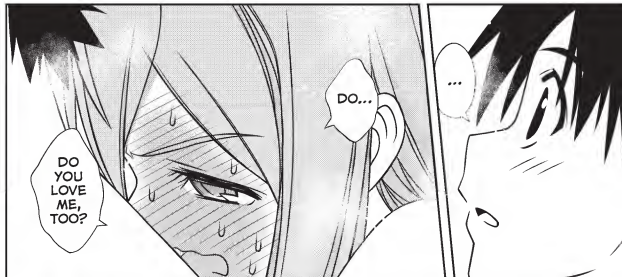
SORRY,
TAKE
YOUR
TIME.

OOPS,
MY BAD!
I DIDN'T
KNOW YOU
WERE IN
THE BATH.









NGH...

AS A
WOMAN,
OF
COURSE.

MAYBE I
SHOULD...
GET THIS
OUT IN THE
OPEN.

OH,
BUT...

HRM
...

B-B-BUT
SHE
TURNED
YOU DOWN
FLAT AS A
PANCAKE,
SO...

HA
HA...

AND I KNOW IT
WAS L-L-LOVE
AT SECOND
SIGHT WITH
YUKIHIME FROM
HUNDREDS OF
YEARS AGO
WHEN SHE WAS
YOUNGER!

HUH?
NO...I
WASN'T
GONNA...

I-I KNOW
YOU'RE IN
LOVE WITH
YUKIHIME!

NO...
UH.

NO...
UH, I
MEAN...

YUKI-
HIME
TOLD
ME.

SHE CAN'T
GET MOVE
FORWARD WITH
ANYTHING
ELSE UNTIL
EVERYTHING'S
RESOLVED
WITH
GRANDPA.

AND THAT
INCLUDES
ME.



BUT I STILL
CAN'T BRING
MYSELF TO
TURN MY
BACK ON
THE
16-YEAR-
OLD HER.

AND I DON'T
KNOW...IF
SHE'S STILL
INSIDE YUKI-
HIME NOW,



SO THAT'S WHY
YOU KEEP TALKING
ABOUT SAVING THE
WORLD AND ALL
THAT STUFF THAT'S
SO LIKE YOU AND
SO NOT LIKE YOU...

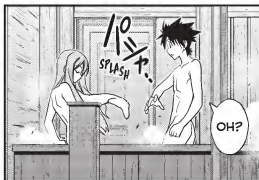
...I
SEE.

...



HMM...
NEVER MIND.
I TAKE IT
BACK!

KIRIE
?



OH?



...I
GET
IT.

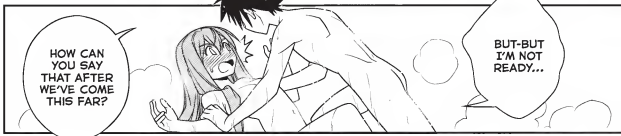
WELL, I
FEEL A
LITTLE LIKE
YUKIHIME
CHEATED
SOMEHOW,
BUT...

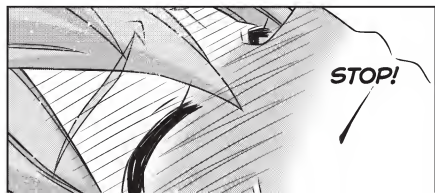
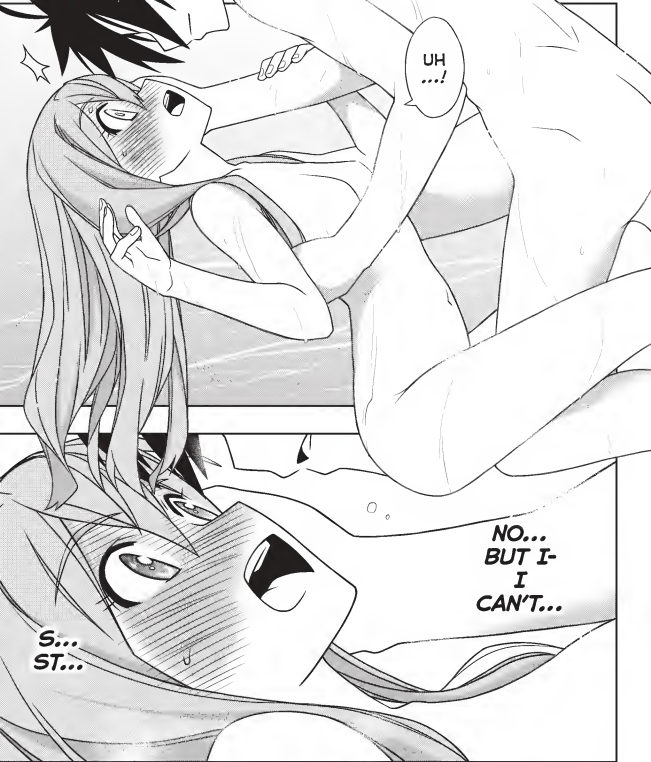


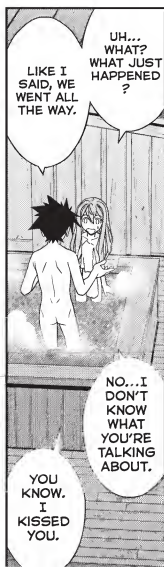
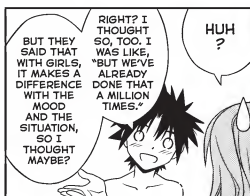
SO
I TAKE
THAT
BACK!
FORGET
IT!

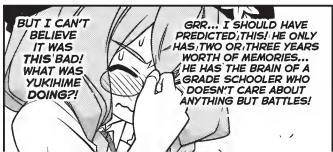
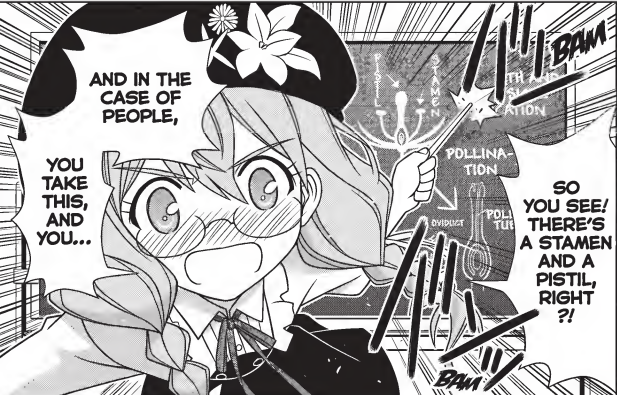
IF I'M
TALKING
ABOUT
PEOPLE NOT
PLAYING
FAIR, THEN
I WASN'T
EXACTLY
PLAYING
FAIR TODAY,
EITHER.













HUH?
NO, BUT
THIS IS
KINDA...

DON'T
LOOK
AWAY!

UGH, I
DON'T
WANNA
DO THIS
ANYMORE!
LOOK, THEY
HAVE PAY-
PER-VIEW
CHANNELS
HERE, SO
WATCH
THIS!

RAR
RAR
RAR

AND
THERE'S
A CERTAIN
ORDER
TO...

YOU
BET IT
DOES/
AT
FIRST!

...OR SO
I HEAR.

DON'T
IT
HURT?

WHAAAT?
THAT'S
MESSED
UP!

YOU
TAKE
THIS,
AND
YOU...
LIKE
THAT!



I WANT
TO TAKE
IT ALL
BACK.

WHAT WAS
MY ADULT
HEART EVEN
POUNDING
FOR?

UGHZ,
THIS IS SO
STUPID. WHY
AM I STAYING
UP ALL NIGHT
FOR SOME-
THING SO
INCREDIBLY
MORONIC?



ADULT
HEART...



HMM...

HE IS
SURPRISINGLY
NOT CLUELESS.
MAYBE HE WAS
JUST DANCING
AROUND THE
ISSUE...

...BUT NOW THAT
I THINK ABOUT IT,
COULD HE REALLY
HAVE NOT KNOWN
IN THIS AGE OF
INFORMATION?



LET'S
GO,
KIRIÉ.

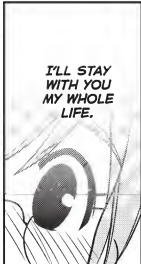


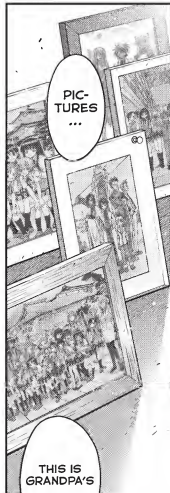
COME
ON.



HEE
HEE

WELL...
I GUESS
THAT'S
GOOD
ENOUGH
FOR NOW.





PIC-
TURES
...

THIS IS
GRANDPA'S
...



THIS...

...IS
GREAT
GRAND-
PA'S...

...WORK-
SHOP.



WHO
ARE
YOU?



TO BE CONTINUED!



CLATTER

